

Southeast News

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Wojtyla Follows Luciani as Pope

Following the short reign and sudden death of Pope John-Paul I, the 700 million member Roman Catholic Church was further stunned by the election, this past October, of the first non-Italian pope in over 450 years. His birthplace: Poland. His name: Karol Wojtyla, Cardinal of Cracow, Poland.

Affirming the philosophy and direction of his predecessor, Wojtyla took on the name Pope John-Paul II.

One of the youngest Popes named, Wojtyla is only 58 years of age. A healthy and athletic man (snow skiing is his favorite sport), Wojtyla is expected to bring a new vibrancy to the Papacy. A master of some seven languages and an author of a number of books, Pope John-Paul II's orthodox religious views will be coupled by political skills seasoned in his many years of struggle with his Communist controlled homeland.

Hailed by his own communicants, the United Church of Christ celebrates the election of Pope John-Paul II and we pray that his leadership might be as vigorous as it is faithful.

Human Rights to Be Celebrated

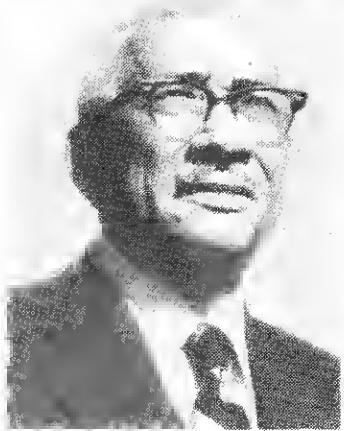
December 10 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ, has joined in a "National Religious Call for Public Support of the UN Human Rights Covenants" which urges our churches to "initiate a coordinated effort to inform the American public about and acquire favorable public support for these human rights covenants."

The UN Covenants were signed by President Carter and submitted to the Senate February 23 of this year. They are expected to be considered by the Senate in late 1979.

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*"Share Some
Spiritual Gift"*

The Christmas Fund



For The VETERANS OF THE CROSS
And The EMERGENCY FUND

THE CHRISTMAS FUND: Helping Those Who Serve

A minister is one who is called as "a servant to the servants of God." How do you say "thank you" to these servants and their many dedicated years of service in the ministry of the United Church of Christ? Why, through the Christmas Fund, of course! The Christmas Fund is an annual all-church offering sponsored by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, the proceeds of which provide relief for hundreds of ministers and their families.

Through your contributions to The Christmas Fund, checks and Christmas greetings will be sent to the church of Conference-nominated retired ministers in need. A portion of the Fund is also used to improve retirement benefits for qualified

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Help Fulfill God's Purposes: GIVE!

November 12th, the second Sunday in November, will be observed as Stewardship Sunday in many congregations of the United Church of Christ. An increasing number of these congregations will unite Stewardship Sunday as the time for Commitment Sunday, the fulfillment of their Christian Enlistment program whereby they gather the financial intentions of their members for the coming year.

The annual theme material for Christian Enlistment is Help Fulfill God's Purposes:

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The annual theme material for Christian Enlistment is Help Fulfill God's Purposes: Give! In addition to a special poster, letterhead, and bulletin-folder-hanger inserts, there are other materials to help congregations with their Enlistments available from the Stewardship Council.

One of the three bulletin folder-hanger inserts this year carries the words of Arthur Cambell Ainger, "...Nearer and nearer draws the time that shall surely be, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea." These words of a missionary hymn remind us of the continuing creative and redemptive activity of God in history. God is at work in the world especially in those events and movements that liberate people by the gospel and advance justice, compassion, and peace. The church is called to join God in that work as a faithful steward of the mysteries of God's grace.

That is an awesome task, a demanding responsibility. But it is not done in our own strength. It is not our own banner we unfurl, nor our gospel we preach. But it is we who do the marching, the proclaiming and the liberating. It is we who are called

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Special Thanksgiving Hunger Appeal to be Made

Church World Service (CWS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC) are embarking upon an educational and fund-raising appeal to the American public during the Thanksgiving season.

"Invite a World Guest to your Thanksgiving table this year" will be the theme of the appeal. Radio and television stations will contribute spot announcements, newspapers will carry announcements and advertisers will contribute advertisements in this national effort to alert the American public to the continuing hunger crisis in many nations of the Third World.

The appeal for funds will be made to individuals, families, organizations, and corporations. Business, education, and government leaders will lend their endorsement and support.

The plan is to reach as many as 50 percent of all American families through millions of envelopes distributed as a public service through supermarkets, magazines, and newspapers during Thanksgiving Week. These envelopes, as well as the announcements and advertisements, will carry a post office address to which the contributions are to be sent.

The appeal will not be made through the churches or church-related organizations. Pastors and congregational leaders, however, may wish to assure parishioners that this is a bona fide appeal to which they are urged to respond.

This appeal to the American public should in no way affect the flow of contributions that regularly come from local churches, church organizations, and church members for the hunger programs made possible by Basic support of Our Christian World Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the U.C.C. Hunger Action Fund.

Any question from U.C.C. leaders or members for further information may be directed to the Dr. Alfred C. Bartholomew, Division of Service, UC Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027.

Loomis Patrick Dies

Loomis Patrick, prominent Boston lawyer, former Massachusetts state representative and chairman of the United Church Board for World Ministries from 1968-71, died October 14. About Mr.

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DR. GUY L. COLBERT

DR. GUY COLBERT PASSES

Dr. Guy Colbert, a chiropractor, clergyman and active participant in community affairs of Hartselle, AL for 27 years died at the age of 70. In poor health the past two years, he had retired from his chiropractic practice.

A member of the Rotary Club, the Shrine Club, the Ministerial Association of Hartselle and other community groups, he had held responsible positions in each. He had been Moderator of the former Southeast Convention of Congregational-Christian Churches and was Pastor-at-Large of the North Alabama Association, United Church of Christ for more than 25 years, retiring two years ago.

Surviving Dr. Colbert are his wife, Frances M. Colbert, one daughter, two sons and two sisters.

Because of his constant care, the North Alabama Churches have fine and adequate facilities and ministerial leadership trained by Dr. Colbert.

—W.J. Andes

Official Call to 12th General Synod

Announcement is hereby made of the meeting of the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to be held at the Indianapolis Convention-Exposition Center, Indianapolis, Indiana, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 22, 1979, and continuing through 10:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, 1979.

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Little Things Need Ministry, Too

Have you ever considered the variety of little, as well as big, things that the members of your church and your minister do to make other's lives more liveable as well as meaningful?

Consider the case of Mrs. Ernestine Rollins who lives in an apartment in Birmingham, AL. About two-and-a-half years ago a large dumpster was placed, for reasons no one can remember, about three feet from her apartment's front window. While being rather unsightly, the dumpster soon became an unbearable nuisance due to the insects attracted by the garbage inside. Two-and-a-half years ago Mrs. Rollins appealed to city officials to move the dumpster. All the officials she appealed to were most sympathetic. But two-and-a-half years later the dumpster still remained in the same spot. The only action by city officials was a letter suggesting that Mrs. Rollins move to another apartment.

Rather than be ejected by a trash receptacle, Mrs. Rollins turned to Rev. Henry Tuttle, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC in Birmingham where Mrs. Rollins works.

After investigating the situation and confirming that the dumpster had attracted "all the winged insects in Jefferson County," Rev. Tuttle made contact with city officials with whom he threatened to make the issue his full-time hobby if something were not done.

Something was. The dumpster was finally moved to a vacant lot across the street.

What does ministry mean? It means responding not only to the big problems, but to all the little headaches the solutions to which can bring a great deal of happiness to people's lives.

Emmaus Home Seeking Superintendent

Emmaus Home, Inc., of St. Charles, Missouri is seeking applicants for the position of Superintendent. Interested parties should send a resume of their educational and professional background or have a dossier sent to:

The Rev. Don Sabbert, Chairman, Search Committee, Emmaus Home, Inc., 307 West Clay Street, Collinsville, Illinois 62234. Deadline for applications is January 1, 1979. Salary is negotiable.

It's Unanimous

It's unanimous! That was the response of the members of the Button Gwinnett United Church of Christ who voted in favor of the purchase of a five acre site to be the location of the congregation's church plant. The first of a projected five new church starts for the Southeast Conference, Button Gwinnett UCC is under the leadership of Rev. George Bennett.

Located right in the midst of the population explosion of Gwinnett County, the five acre site of land in Snellville, GA is adjacent to two schools and a housing development, 50 percent of which is still to be completed.

Subject to approval by the Board of Homeland Ministries in November, the new church could take possession of the property by early January. Until final purchase of the property and erection of a building, the congregation of Button Gwinnett UCC will continue to meet in the Snellville Civic Auditorium each Sunday.

This is a most encouraging step for a congregation which got underway only this past January! But there is still a good way to go. Contributions by your congregation to help the "infant" Button Gwinnett Church meet the immense costs of land and construction are always welcome and may be forwarded through the Southeast Conference Office, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.

Help fulfill . . . [from Page 1]

to pray for peace, to stand for justice, to give generously, and to act faithfully. And in that acting out of the stewardship of the gospel we help to fulfill God's purpose.

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EVERGREEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Beatchon, Georgia

AROUND THE CONFERENCE:

Evergreen UCC

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Kentucky, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing some of our many churches in Georgia is Evergreen United Church of Christ located in Beatchon, GA. Founded in the year of 1900, the church became the site some eleven years later of Beatchon Community Center, a training school for the community. This school, as well as the church, played an important role in helping to develop leadership within the community.

Evergreen UCC presently participates in an interesting ecumenical venture. With a C.M.E. church on one side and a Primitive Baptist Church on the other, the congregation of Evergreen UCC shares its programming with the fellowships of the other two churches every first and third Sunday. Such an arrangement provides an excellent opportunity to learn and appreciate the practices and beliefs of other Protestant denominations. Every fifth Sunday, Evergreen exchanges services with their sister church in Thomasville, GA: Bethany United Church of Christ.

In addition to an active youth group, the church hosts an annual Vacation Bible School and celebrates an Harvest Home

Festival on the day preceding Thanksgiving. With some 45 members at present, the church is governed by a Board of Elders and a Board of Trustees.

Rev. Artis Johnson, author of a recently published children's story, is the minister.

Human Rights . . . [fr. P. 1]

Administration and the Congress has been clouded by confusion about just what human rights are. The UN Covenants define for the international community political and civil rights (as enumerated in our Bill of Rights) and economic, social and cultural rights, protection from race and sex discrimination, right to food, a job, protection for vulnerable groups in the society — the handicapped, children, the elderly.

A Covenants Action guide produced in part by our denomination and Amnesty International is available free on request from the Office for Church in Society, UCC, 297 Park Avenue South, N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Bulk orders are available at \$7 per 100. A more extensive OCIS Human Rights Packet, including the latest issue of the Journal of Current Social Issues which focuses on human rights is available for \$4 through the address listed above. Organizing suggestions and a film guide are included in the packet.

Human Rights Week — December 10-17 — provides a fitting occasion for the introduction of this topic to church adult education programs. You are encouraged to use these resources with your church.

Habitat Project in Morgan and Scott Counties

Mary Frey, the UCC pastor who serves as coordinator of the Habitat project in Morgan and Scott Counties, writes that 18 acres of land have been purchased, a road to the site is being cleared (the logs can be sold as pulpwood to help raise cash), and the first house is under way.

John Hawn, a construction trainee, his wife Mary and their three small children will receive the first house. At the moment, they pay \$30 a month for the house they live in which has no water and little heat. John was heading for Nashville, 180 miles away, to look for work when he was hired on the Habitat project. Now his family will stay together, and at the same time John is learning valuable construction skills.

In Typical Habitat fashion, the 12 people working on the Morgan-Scott building program at this moment, do not have nearly enough money to finish one house. But already John Baldouf, a contractor-partner in Marion, Ohio, has sent \$600 worth of tools, and we have faith that more funds will come in as they are needed. We remember that Jesus called just twelve people and some pretty fantastic things began to happen!

—Millard Fuller
(extracted from his newsletter of
October-November 1978)

Christmas Fund . . . [fr. P. 1]

ministers with low pensions, an especially important service in this time of rapidly rising inflation. A third portion of the proceeds is reserved in the Emergency Fund to be dispersed throughout the year for ministers who actively serve. Ministers and their families who find their resources exhausted by illness, accident or other tragedy, receive practical help from the Emergency Fund.

Christmas Fund materials, including free posters, folders and offering envelopes, have already been forwarded to all churches. Intended for the Advent season, the exact date of the offering is left to the discretion of local churches.

As you remember the members of your own immediate family this Christmas, remember, too, the retired senior servants of our larger family, the church. Please give generously.



[l-r] Former ministers, Rev. Clyde Flannery, Rev. Donald Orander; Celebration Chairwoman, Ms. Jackie Shrago; Present Minister, Rev. Stephen Gray; Conference Minister, Dr. William Andes.

BROOKMEADE CELEBRATES

Brookmeade Congregational Church, UCC in Nashville, Tennessee marked its 25th anniversary with an Anniversary Celebration held on October 21 and 22.

Helping to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Brookmeade and the 50th anniversary of its predecessor, College-side Congregational Church, were former ministers Rev. Don Orander, now pastor of Eden UCC in Muncie, Indiana and Rev. Clyde Flannery, now Associate Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. Also joining the celebration was Conference Minister W.J. Andes.

A number of former members journeyed from as far away as West Virginia to be part of the Anniversary events which included a Saturday evening banquet and party, a Sunday morning breakfast and a joyous service of worship, during which Revs. Orander, Flannery and Andes all shared their memories of the past and their hopes for the church for the future.

In addition to displays of memorabilia and letters received from former members of Brookmeade and Collegeside, including such persons as Rev. Arnold Slater and Rev. Collie Seymour, taped messages from those who could not be present were received from former ministers Rev. Talmage Hartman, now retired, and Rev. John Anderson, presently pastoring a church in California.

Chairing the celebration was Ms. Jackie Shrago. Rev. Stephen Gray is the pastor.

Prickett Joins Staff of Habitat for Humanity

Rev. James Prickett joined the fulltime staff of Habitat for Humanity, Inc. in Americus, GA, in July, 1978. Jim, who for 17 years has pastored United Methodist and UCC churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, has been a supporter of Habitat from its beginning. He was appointed Treasurer on the Board of Directors when Habitat for Humanity was established and has worked on finances for the organization ever since.

When it became evident this summer, that Habitat needed the help of a full-time administrative person, Jim and his family moved to Americus, Georgia.

His wife, Janette, also helps in the project as volunteer secretary, book-keeper and receptionist.

In September, Jim spent three weeks in Zaire getting firsthand knowledge of the Habitat Projects there.

Loomis Patrick . . . [fr. P. 2]

Patrick, David Stowe, UCBWM vice-president, commented, "Loomis Patrick has given a full generation of devoted service. He combined personal commitment to world missions with unusual professional skills. He will be greatly missed."

Mr. Patrick was a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ Second Church in West Newton, MA.